

Minutes of Christ Church Moreton Hall Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 4th May at 7.30p.m.

This meeting was recorded on Zoom

Present: Rev. Jonathan Ford, Heather Lovell, Jonathan Corwin, Lesley Williams, Debbie Corwin, Andrew Caldecott, Roger Farnell, Jane Ford, Claire Johnston, Margarita Baxter, Mervyn Baxter, Enid Feinson, David Mathers, Lynda Mathers, Peter Stanway, Sue Stanway, Jane Harper, Charlotte Kearsley, Gill Shaw, Philippa Morphew, Graham Unsworth, Sam Reid, Colleen Hart, Liz Kearsley, Julian Kearsley

The Vestry Meeting

1. **Opening Prayer**

Jonathan Ford opened the meeting with a prayer for spiritual guidance and leadership.

2. **Vestry meeting including the election of Church Wardens**

Jonathan Corwin and Heather Lovell were unanimously elected.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Minutes of the APCM held on 19th October 2020.**

These were adopted.

2. **Minister's remarks (Rev. Jonathan Ford)**

- The year marked 30 years' service for Jonathan and Jane Ford, an important milestone.
- Jonathan Corwin and Heather Lovell have done an excellent job as church wardens and the finances have been very well managed by Colleen Hart.
- Good use has been made of Facebook and Zoom.
- Worship leaders, homegroups, Vatha and Sunday School leaders all deserve recognition for the sterling work they have been doing.
- Lesley Williams, our Parish Nurse has done everything she can do during this very difficult time.

Some of the standout achievements include:

- Staying Covid safe.
- 350 Shoeboxes were donated.
- Continued support for the Foodbank.
- Thought for the day.
- Partnering with the local authority during the pandemic was recognised in the Lord Lieutenant's Award.
- Creation of the weekly prayers group with up to 16 participants.
- The creation of a successful ALPHA Course on Zoom with members from across Suffolk, Sussex and Spain. The latter through the work of Les and Dahlia Simmons bringing new people to faith.

- Healings of a number of people, notably Sid.
- Sadly, significant losses included John Milward who was a former treasurer aged 87, Dahlia Simmons who has been a stalwart member of the church for many years despite living in Spain, and Sarah Reader's mum in a care home.

In some ways 2020 and 2021 have been our finest hour. Inspired by our Lord Jesus Christ, we have cared for and worked to support each other during what has been a very dark time.

There are still challenges, but we can face them together.

The report is available in full on the website

3. **Report of the PCC (Julian Kearsley)**

Julian referred to his report (on the Website) and pointed that the PCC had sought to ensure the following:

- we maintain and adapt pastoral care,
- we sustain and innovate worship to adapt to the challenges of Covid,
- we retain young members of the church,
- we sustain sound financial management, and
- all members of the church are safeguarded.

4. **Fabric Report (Jonathan Corwin)**

Work had been carried out on ventilation, replacement of the fuse box, replacement of the lawn mower, signage, sanitisers, protective screens, purchase of a web cam, and removal of the cigarette unit outside the front of the church.

The report is available in full on the website

5. **Financial Report (Colleen Hart)**

Colleen's report is available on the website.

The impact of Covid and the reduction of income (partially offset by a council grant) required the church to reduce its parish share and she referred to the criteria by which this was determined.

The budget for 2021 stands at an income of £49,931 and expenditure of £43,543.

The 2020 accounts are currently being audited and will be available once that is completed.

Colleen was congratulated by all members of the PCC for the excellent work she has done.

6. **Blessing Fund (Heather Lovell)**

The fund totalled £4,170. This contributed to Vatha's work, a gift for Sid Hudson's family and support for the Bishop's Kagera appeal. In terms of giving the church also supported the Storehouse Food Bank. In addition, donations have been made to funds for Christian Aid

(Thanks to Howard and Jane Scott), the Shoebox Appeal, The Christingle Children's Society donations, and Sam Reid's Rickshaw Scheme. Please see the website for the full report.

From 2021 the Blessing Fund will be the responsibility of the PCC as a whole.

The APCM expressed its appreciation for Heather's work.

7. **Home Groups (Rev. Jonathan Ford)**

Jonathan emphasized the important role they play in church life and should also include the ALPHA Group.

8. **Parish Nurse and Caring Ministry (Lesley Williams)**

Lesley's report is available in full on the website. It included a sample of work she had undertaken over a two week period, including advice, general support and mental health issues.

Lesley expressed her thanks for everyone's support and mentioned that she had attended a Parish Nurse Zoom meeting and has also been validated as a nurse for a further three years.

Jonathan mentioned that the Parish Nurse is also key link for the DECAF group for dementia sufferers. Colleen referred to a donation received in appreciation of the support Lesley had supported.

9. **Youth & Sunday school**

A video presentation now was made showing young people learning about God and having fun at the same time. The sessions include worship, prayers, bible study, games and crafts. They have a substantial audience (between 50 and 350 views).

Jonathan Ford expressed his thanks. Everyone unmuted and gave Vatha a round of applause.

10. **Safeguarding (Heather Lovell)**

Heather expressed her gratitude for everyone's involvement and participation in safeguarding.

Anna Lomas and Heather have attended parish safeguarding forums. It has been key in generating the Parish Dashboard assessment system where Moreton Hall has reached level 2.

Anna has been of particular help as have Lesley and Jonathan Ford.

Jonathan Ford praised Heather for doing the work so well.

11. **Electoral Roll (Gillian Corwin)**

The Roll is accurate and up to date. There are currently 77 people on the church roll and no change has taken place since the previous APCM.

12. **Deanery Synod Report (Heather Lovell)**

This is equivalent to the Church Council but for the whole Deanery. Its role is information sharing and making decisions for the whole area. It has met twice and shared challenges and ideas on Covid issues. Most recently they have considered a deanery plan. As part of this Bishop Martin has emphasized the importance of reaching out to the community as a priority.

In 2020, despite all the challenges, the diocese broke even financially. The Diocesan Synod will be electing two lay people to the general synod in the coming year.

13. **Minister's Address (Rev. Jonathan Ford) and Prayer before Elections**

Rev. Jonathan Ford's address (attached).

14. **Elections**

Members of the PCC

All those standing were unanimously elected.

15. **Appointments**

- (a) Treasurer – Charlotte Kearsley was unanimously elected to the PCC, and this position will be confirmed at the next PCC meeting.
- (b) Secretary – Julian Kearsley was unanimously elected to the PCC, and this position will be confirmed at the next PCC meeting.
- (c) Deanery Synod Representatives – Jonathan Corwin and Heather Lovell were unanimously elected.
- (d) Independent Examiner or Auditor – Chris Richardson would be contracted by Jonathan Ford.

16. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

17. **Closing Prayer and Blessing**

The meeting closed with a prayer of thanks to God for being with us giving us guidance for the future.

The meeting concluded at 8.50p.m.